



CPMR TASK FORCE ON MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

*Updated Terms of Reference for 2019-onwards
approved by the Migration Task Force on 16 October 2019*

1. Definitions

For the purpose of this Task Force, the term migrant refers to a non-EU national and/or asylum seeker who leaves one country or region to settle in another, in search of a better life or for fear of being persecuted.

The term is in accordance with the respective definitions used by DG Migration and Home Affairs of the European Commission.

2. Context

The EU is trying to set up a balanced, comprehensive and common migration policy¹, built upon solidarity and responsibility, in order to seize the opportunities whilst tackling the challenges concerning migration flows.

One of the extents of this effort is to make a valuable contribution to the EU's economic development in the long term. This EU policy aims to better organise legal migration within an effective and multilaterally coherent migration governance enhancing the integration of non-EU nationals in EU societies, curbing irregular migration and managing migration through partnerships with non-EU countries, ensuring respect for, and protection of, migrants' human rights and ensuring their effective integration in the European society.

Migration appears within the 10 priorities of the current European Commission (2014-2019) but it was the unprecedented influx of people in the European Union in 2015 that put the issue at the very

¹ Tampere EU Council 1999, EU Pact on Immigration and Asylum 2008, Stockholm programme 2009, EU Council of June 2014 etc.

top of the EU agenda, prompting the mobilisation of European funds and the publication of the new [European Agenda on Migration](#) in May 2015 to address immediate emergencies and challenges.

Since the 2015 crisis, migration and asylum has become a highly sensitive and complex political issue, and the EU Member States have been struggling to agree on a common approach.

The aspects addressed in the European Agenda on Migration, include -among others- [Legal Migration](#), [Common European Asylum System \(CEAS\)](#) and a [Global Approach to Migration and Mobility](#) (GAMM). The latter constitutes the overarching framework for EU external Migration Policy, complementary to EU Foreign Policy and development cooperation. Migration and mobility are thus important aspects of the EU's relations with its neighbours under the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). Regarding the recast Common European Asylum System (CEAS), the revised Dublin regulation has so far proved to be a major stumbling block in the EU negotiations.

Europe is facing serious humanitarian emergencies at its borders (e.g. thousands of migrant deaths in the Euro-Med area, millions of arrivals in Europe since 2014), as well as a real and unprecedented challenge for the integration of asylum seekers in the EU societies.

On the one hand, the larger percentage of migrants have headed to Northern Europe, where the numbers of applications for international protection have put pressure on the respective asylum systems and have sometimes triggered negative reactions within the population.

On the other hand, the Euro-Med Region is an area especially concerned by migratory movements, which are complex phenomena with demographic, socio-economic, political and cultural implications. The southern and eastern countries of the Mediterranean are at the same time territories at the origin of regular and irregular migration, transit and destination for migration flows from the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Although the EU-Turkey agreement has decreased the influx of people to Greece through Turkey, conflicts and political instability in these areas are continuing to generate migration flows affecting the entire Mediterranean Region and the EU. The Euro-Med area is also one of the main gateways for the internal spread of migration flows among all EU countries.

After the recent changes in the Southern Med countries, a structured dialogue on migration mobility and security was set up by the EU. Mobility partnerships were signed with several countries but their correct implementation is possibly linked to the release of a higher number of visas allowing work mobility by EU Member States, with the controversy that this option may entail.

At global level there are also on-going different processes of dialogue (United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and [Global Compacts on Migration and Refugees](#)), as well as at regional level (Africa-EU partnership) and at the sub-regional level (Rabat Process, Euromed ministerial meetings, 5+5 Western Med dialogue, Union for the Mediterranean, Euro-Med Assembly of Regional and Local Authorities) to mention just a few.

At territorial level, among the sub-national governments, European Regions operate using relevant experience on the ground. It goes without saying that Regions have key competences, sensibility and a fundamental role to play in migration issues and in particular in the framework of responses to emergencies within the territory, integration of migrants and socio-economic development. Their

capacity for action should be improved, supported and their role shall be taken into account more consistently especially by Member States, the EU and Euro-Med Institutions, as an added value for strengthening the effective implementation of EU Migration Policy at territorial level. It is clear that a global approach to migration also requires effective multilevel governance.

In this regard, there have been some positive elements in the proposed financial instruments for the programming period 2020-2027 which make specific mentions of the regional role (NDICI, AMF ESF+/Cohesion Policy).

3. Areas of Action

The Migration crisis in Europe is far from over and more challenges lay ahead; on the one hand with regard to the effective integration of large numbers of migrants in the European societies, and on the other hand with regard to the continuing instability in neighbouring areas, which may result in an unceasing influx of migrants towards Europe.

There is a need to establish a long-term effective, plural and integrated multilevel governance model for managing migration based on a concrete strategy for legal migration, the fight against irregularities, criminality and human traffic, the respect of the right of asylum, economic cooperation, the positive relationship between migration and development, and a more effective cooperation with countries of transit and origin in all areas of migration.

Voluntary Regions should be more and systematically involved in the identification and implementation of possible solutions. In this sense, it is necessary that they do not simply be the executors of directives from national governments, but be ready and able to influence them to become stakeholders that are increasingly involved in actions towards political peace, dialogue and cooperation.

The Inter-Commission Task Force established by the CPMR in February 2015 (based on the first formal request of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission) has so far enhanced the exchange among CPMR member regions on Migration Management and has led to a series of advocacy initiatives, including:

- Adoption of a [Policy Position](#) by the CPMR General Assembly in November 2015.
- Publication of a first issue paper on the internal dimension of migration policy: '[Migration and Asylum in EU Regions: Towards a multilevel governance approach](#)' in February 2018
- Publication of second issue paper on the external dimension of migration policy '[Working together: the regional strategy](#)' in March 2019
- Beta version of the CPMR [Visual Mapping](#) on migration management and the role of the regions based on the results of member surveys
- Policy monitoring and lobbying actions (EU Council, EP, DG HOME, DG ECHO)
- Organisation of and participation in conferences, seminars and workshops
- Synergies with other relevant publications and initiatives (e.g. CoR "Cities and Regions for Integration", ICMPD, OECD, ESPON...)
- Participation in project proposals under the AMIF and H2020 calls

A list of the initiatives that have been undertaken by the CPMR and its Geographical Commissions since the creation of the Task Force is available as an annex to these Terms of Reference. [Click here to view this list.](#)

In this framework, and on the basis of the proposals put forward by CPMR Regions with the support of the CPMR Secretariat this Inter-Commission Task Force shall continue addressing the main **thematic areas** defined:

- ❖ INTERNAL DIMENSION (RECEPTION AND INTEGRATION)
 - **Promotion of reflections and recommendations on possible measures for improving the practical, immediate response, with respect for migrants' human rights, to the challenges of humanitarian emergencies in CPMR Regions, caused by irregular migration flows;**
 - **Effective and participatory socio-economic integration of migrants in the regions**
- ❖ EXTERNAL DIMENSION (DECENTRALISED COOPERATION AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT)
 - **Promotion of a better coordination across levels of governments in the migration-development nexus, broader joint reflections on the deepest roots of migratory flows and more effective action for improving its management, circular migration as an asset for economic integration in EU Neighbourhoods;**
 - **Support for dialogue among cultures and religions and the conditions for sustainable development (in its broader definition and creating interlinkage with climate change and environmental degradation) in the countries of origin and transit of migration flows through development of cooperation actions (link with Neighbourhood Policy and Development Cooperation).**

4. Objectives

The specific objectives of this Task Force are:

1. **Policy and Advocacy** – On the basis of the CPMR Policy Position adopted and the two issue papers, to profile, advocate for and secure the added value of regional action in the management of migration, by means of a specific voice for regional authorities for the coordination of actions and/or the effective management of funds on the ground.
2. **Innovative processes and exchange of visions and best practices** - To encourage and strengthen new cooperation processes and partnerships of particular added value, innovation and effectiveness for more effective migration management and governance. This shall include facilitating communication and exchange of concrete best practice between regional authorities and their partners.
3. **Consolidation and implementation of a regional strategy on migration, mobility and development** – To build a common strategy based on identified and potential areas of regional action and opportunities offered through the financial instruments post 2020.
4. **Complementarity, synergy and pilot actions** - To promote and complement the impact of the CPMR Task Force on migration management and the individual work of its members, as well as synergies with other CPMR Working Groups and all the Geographical Commissions, as necessary.

If needed the Task Force should conceive pilot actions for the future to be developed by its members, possibly with the support of EU funds.

This Task Force shall also monitor and engage in other relevant partnerships, particularly those around other organisations, networks or events, as appropriate. This Task Force could support the participation of the CPMR, some of its Geographical Commissions and/or some of its members within the relevant Fora dealing with migration issues at local and regional level (e.g. the Euro-Mediterranean Assembly of Regional and Local Authorities, the Union of the Mediterranean and others at different levels). The Task Force shall also support the implementation of specific projects conceived by its regions and institutes specialised in migration (e.g. the “MIPEX-R” project on Migrant Integration Policy Index at regional level, www.mipex.eu; projects for AMIF, H2020 calls, etc.).

- 5. Accountability and effectiveness:** Monitor and assess the effectiveness and impact of actions to improve migration management and its coherent multilateral and multilevel governance vis-à-vis the EU and international organisations or transnational associations of sub-national authorities, as well as of the actions and deliverables of the Task Force.

5. Activities (outlook 2019-onwards)

In order to achieve the above objectives, the Task Force shall carry out the following activities (non-exhaustive):

Publications and Policy Work

- **Policy watch**
 - recast “Common European Asylum System”
 - international agreements such as the “Global Compact on Migration” (approved December 2018).
 - Impact of CPMR policy activity in the EU regulations/funding instruments post 2020 (e.g. new AMF, Cohesion Policy/ESF+, NDICI)
 - Legislation and EU Councils
- **Technical proposals** with priority focus on key references to Regions in the financial tools e.g. NDICI; new AMF, ESF+/Cohesion Policy; Developing a regional agenda on migration, targeting REPERS; JHA Council, New EC/ EP etc
- **Political messages** on the internal and external dimensions of EU migration policy based on the CPMR strategy/vision set out in the issue papers and technical proposals
- **Briefing of the new EU Parliament and Commission**
- **Ongoing lobbying actions** towards the EC-EP-Council concerning the internal and external dimension of migration policy (approaches, regulations, funding instruments)
- **Synergies** with other publications and Initiatives such as the CoR’s “cities and regions for integration”, OECD, ESPON...
- **Contribution to GCs/CPMR Global policy positions/Declarations** when needed/possible
- Ongoing development of **CPMR visual mapping** on migration management and the role of the regions

- **Identification of specific topics** for future work, e.g.:
 - unaccompanied minors
 - decentralised cooperation with non-EU members
 - promotion of solidarity agreements between regions for the voluntary relocation of migrants/broader proposals (e.g. SHARE)

Projects

- Participation in EU projects, for example the following ones, if the applications prove successful:
 - **InteREGION (REGIN)** - Regions for Migrants and Refugees Integration (CPMR lead partner)
 - **GEMIS** Project on global and EU long term scenario for migration flows in the EU (CPMR is an associate partner and member of the end-users/stakeholders Forum)
 - **TIP** Project: the Institution in the Integration Policies (CPMR is a full partner)
- **Synergies** with other relevant projects and the concrete actions under the new CoR Initiative
- **Tool in the CPMR web site** to share information and opportunities for migration related projects

Events and Meetings

- Virtual and physical meetings of the Task Force
- Sessions on migration in the CPMR statutory meetings (Political Bureau and General Assembly)
- Participate in/disseminate information on events organised by regions and external partners
- Ad hoc lobbying meetings with new MEPs, EC.

6. Composition and Working Arrangements of the Task Force

The Task Force consists of:

- A CPMR Coordinating region that should periodically report to the Political Bureau
- CPMR Member Regions with an interest in the objectives and thematic areas mentioned above and that have indicated their desire to take part in the Task Force (Regions shall appoint officers of their internal departments or agencies directly concerned by migration issues);
- The Executive Secretaries of the CPMR's Geographical Commissions (ex-officio);
- CPMR General Secretariat (ex-officio);
- Expert consultant to CPMR under a contractual agreement
- External experts and special advisers, invited to participate as observers, if needed and on an *ad-hoc* basis.

Leadership and activities of the Task Force

The general tasks of the Task Force, supported by the CPMR Secretariat and the external consultant, shall be to:

- Steer the dialogue, experience exchange and cooperation among its members on Migration policies

- Reflect on ways to enhance the territorial dimension of the EU's medium- and long-term policies related to Migration and the effective implementation of the relevant priorities, such as the integration of migrants in the EU societies, the emergency situations in Member-States of reception and transit of migrants, and the contribution of the Regions to the external dimension of migration policies through their decentralised development cooperation;
- Provide the necessary resources to prepare possible policy positions (resolutions, reports, etc.) and pilot actions (e.g. project ideas) for the CPMR's executive bodies and Call for Proposals;
- Support the liaison of the Task Force with relevant EU and international institutions, networks and actors (European Commission, European Parliament and Parliamentary Assembly of the UfM, CoR, ARLEM, UfM Secretariat, etc.).
- Endorse CPMR policy positions on migration, which are then presented to the CPMR statutory bodies for information (Political Bureau and General Assembly).

The leadership of the Task Force shall be assumed by Region Skåne (Sweden), which shall be responsible for reporting to the CPMR Political Bureau.

The Geographical Commissions should be actively involved, in particular those, such as the Intermediterranean Commission, whose members are especially concerned by migratory flows and emergency situations and are active in the field of integration policies. The CPMR Secretariat shall provide secretarial services.

Operational Arrangements

The working language of the Task Force shall be English. When needed for official public events of the Task Force, the cost of simultaneous translation for other languages or for specific interpretation services shall be covered by the Region hosting the meeting/event. The Region hosting the event shall cover the catering expenses. Where possible and appropriate, logistical support shall be sought from the EU Institutions (e.g. Committee of the Regions) and/or partner networks and actors.

The CPMR shall provide secretarial tasks and assist in the preparation of meetings. It shall cover translation expenses (English/French) for papers presented to the Political Bureau and General Assembly. The CPMR will cover the travel and accommodation expenses of any outside experts, limited to 2 per year. Should it be felt necessary to commission additional sources of expertise requiring remuneration, the issue will be examined by the Task Force Member Regions and the CPMR Secretariat. Each member of the Task Force shall cover his or her own travel and subsistence expenses relating to participation in the meetings and events of the Task Force.

Meetings of the Task Force

The Task Force shall hold a reduced number of formal meetings as necessary, depending on the relevant EU and CPMR agendas in relation to the above-mentioned objectives and thematic areas. In principle, the meetings will be held in Brussels or in a host Region. The activities of the Task Force will continue with regular meetings held mainly through remote webinar facilities.



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The Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) brings together some 160 Regions from 25 States from the European Union and beyond.

Representing about 200 million people, the CPMR campaigns in favour of a more balanced development of the European territory.

It operates both as a think tank and as a lobby group for Regions. It focuses mainly on social, economic and territorial cohesion, maritime policies and accessibility.

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